

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. The Office Action indicates that claims 1-9 and 17-20 are allowed and that claims 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including any base and intervening claim limitations.

The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chan et al., then identifies the Chan et al. patent as having the patent number “4,373, 23” (sic). The applicant is assuming that the Office Action intended to cite the US patent number “4,274,615” to Chan et al. rather than “4,373,23” since the former is the US patent listed in the Notice of References Cited accompanying the Office Action.

Regarding claim 10, please note that the component that the Office Action refers to as a trim bezel (item 46 in the Chan et al. patent) doesn’t provide a frictional fit within the Chan et al. lamp/reflector housing (41) as claimed. Neither is the so-called bezel 46 supportable within a range of axial positions within the Chan et al. lamp housing as claimed. Instead, the bezel (46) is positioned outside the lamp housing and is sandwiched between the reflector housing flange (47) and the ceiling (10) (see Fig. 3 and col. 4 lines 20-23).

Still further, the Chan et al. bezel 46 doesn’t include an upper portion that passes through a hole in the ceiling panel as claimed. Instead, the entire bezel (46) is positioned below a lower horizontal surface of the ceiling (10) (see Fig. 3 and col. 4 lines 20-23).

For these reasons the Applicant maintains that US 4,274,615 doesn’t anticipate claim 1.

The Applicant maintains that claim 13 is allowable because it depends from an allowable base claim.

Regarding claim 14, please note that what the Action describes as spring clips (items 26) don't appear to be structures that one skilled in the art would describe as spring clips. Moreover, even if they could be described as being spring clips, none of these items (26) is supported on the Chan et al. trim bezel (46) as recited in claim 14, nor do any of them axially retain the bezel (46) within the reflector housing (41) as recited in claim 14. Instead they adjustably clamp onto an inner edge of a hole (12) formed in a ceiling panel (10) and are subsequently used to support a light fixture (13) in the hole (12).

For these reasons, the Applicant maintains that US 4,274,615 doesn't anticipate claim 14.

Regarding claim 15, the Action describes the Chan et al. trim bezel (46) as having a tapered tubular shape as recited in claim 15. However, a review of Figure 3 of the Chan et al. patent reveals that this isn't the case. The shape of the bezel (46) is a generally flat annular ring with a shallow lip extending upwardly from an inner edge of the ring. A lower annular surface of the bezel is tapered, but this portion is no more "tubular" than a washer. Also, as discussed above, the Chan et al. trim bezel (46) isn't configured to be received within a housing as required by claim 15.

For these reasons, the Applicant maintains that US 4,274,615 doesn't anticipate claim 15.

Regarding claim 16, the Action describes the Chan et al. spring 26 as having a sharp distal edge that engages an inner surface of the housing wall as recited in claim 16. However, upon closer examination it becomes apparent that what the Action

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refers to as the spring 26 doesn't engage the Chan et al. lamp housing wall at all, much less the *inner surface* of the housing wall as claimed. Instead, the sharp distal edges that the Action refers to engage the ceiling panel top surface as shown in Figure 3 of the Chan et al. patent, which in turn engages an outer surface of the Chan et al. lamp housing.

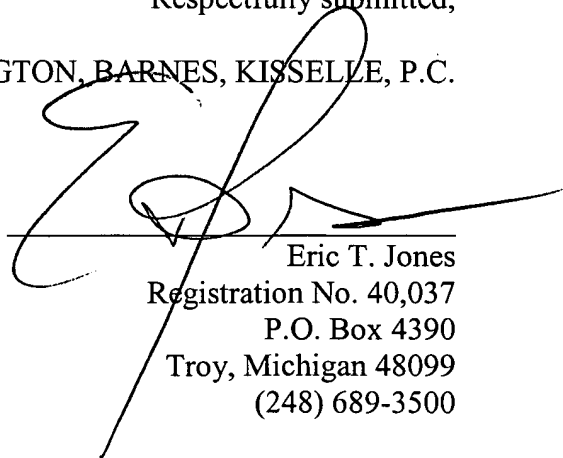
For these reasons, the Applicant maintains that US 4,274,615 doesn't anticipate claim 16.

Claims 1-20 recite patentable subject matter and are allowable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits such allowance. Please favorably reconsider the outstanding Office Action.

I authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0852. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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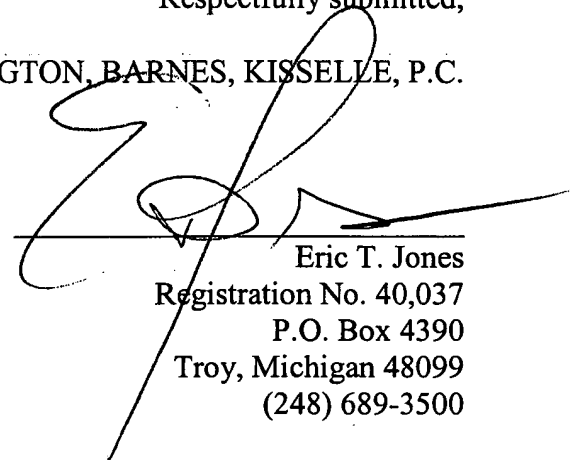
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